



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

October 1, 2002

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **C-1**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY WORK
SAN GABRIEL, SAN DIMAS, BIG DALTON, AND LIVE OAK DAMS
MODIFICATIONS TO OUTLET WORKS AND
INSTALLATION OF HORIZONTAL DRAINS
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
4 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the public interest and necessity demand immediate action to (1) modify the outlet works at San Gabriel, San Dimas, and Big Dalton Dams to prevent potential damage to these facilities due to inflows of sediment during winter storms as a result of the recent fires in the watershed upstream of the dams, (2) install additional horizontal drains in Live Oak Dam to relieve water pressure due to higher operating levels, and (3) ensure the Department of Public Works' ability to effectively operate these dams during storms.
2. Find that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. Adopt the enclosed Resolution in the form previously approved by County Counsel and, pursuant to Section 22050 of the Public Contract Code, authorize the Director of Public Works to negotiate and execute contracts on behalf of the County, in an amount not to exceed a total of \$1,250,000, to procure the necessary equipment, services, and supplies for the modifications necessary to ensure effective operation of the dams and to prevent potential damage, which could be caused by the inflow of sediment during the upcoming storm season.

PURPOSE /JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

This action will authorize the Director of Public Works to contract on an emergency basis for the necessary modifications to the outlet works at San Gabriel, San Dimas, and Big Dalton Dams to prevent damage, which could be caused by the inflow of sediment during the upcoming storm season, and to install horizontal drains in Live Oak Dam to prevent the undesirable buildup of water pressure because of the increase in depth of water impounded behind the dam.

The Curve and Williams fires have burned over 51,000 acres in the Angeles National Forest during the month of September. Much of the burned area is in the watershed tributary to these dams. Sediment production increases dramatically when a watershed burns and a moderate storm could produce millions of cubic yards of sediment that would be deposited behind these dams. The introduction of this material into the dams' outlet works could result in extensive damage to the mechanical equipment used to make controlled releases of water from the reservoirs. Failure of this equipment would prevent proper operation of the dams and could result in uncontrolled flows over the spillways and flooding of communities downstream of the dams.

In order to prevent the introduction of sediment into the valves of these dams, modifications need to be made to delay the entry of water into their outlet works until a safe operating pool is formed in the reservoirs that will force the sediment to settle to the bottom of the reservoirs before it reaches the outlet works. We are presently preparing plans for the necessary modifications and will be ready to negotiate contracts in the very near future. At Live Oak Dam, no outlet modifications are necessary. However, the water impounded behind the dam will be maintained at a higher than normal level. This will increase water pressure in the soil near the spillway. This pressure must be reduced by installing horizontal drains. This work needs to be accomplished quickly since the storm season officially begins on October 15, and the winter rains could begin in the near future.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility since it will reduce the risk of flooding in downstream communities and also prevent expensive damage to these dams.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of the required contract services are expected to be in the range of \$750,000 to \$1,250,000 depending upon the scope of work required to make the necessary modifications. Funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Flood Control District Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 22050, Emergency Contracting Procedures, of the Public Contract Code (PCC) provides that in the case of an emergency, a public agency, pursuant to a four-fifths vote of the governing body, may take any directly related and immediate action required by that emergency, and procure the necessary equipment, services, and supplies for those purposes, without advertising for bids prior to awarding contracts. Before taking any such action, the public agency shall make a finding, based on substantial evidence set forth in the minutes of its meeting, that the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids and that the action is necessary to respond to the emergency. The governing body, by a four-fifths vote, may delegate to the Director of Public Works the authority to order any action required by that emergency.

Pursuant to Section 22050 of the PCC, we will return to your Board every 14 days to report on our progress and justify why the emergency continues to deny the opportunity for the solicitation of competitive bids. We will also recommend when the emergency action should be discontinued.

The plans and specifications for the outlet works modifications will include the contractual provisions, workmanship standards, and equipment requirements necessary for the prosecution of these projects. The contract agreements will be in the form previously approved by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This work is categorically exempt pursuant to Class 1, Subsection (i), of the revised County Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This work will be contracted on a negotiated basis following the compilation of a short list of qualified contractors.

The project specifications will contain provisions (1) requiring the contractors to comply with the County's Child Support Compliance Program, (2) requiring the contractors to report solicitations of improper consideration by County employees and allowing the County to terminate the contract if it is found that the contractors offered or gave improper consideration to County employees, and (3) requiring the contractors to comply with the requirements of the Contractor Employee Jury Service Program.

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The project specifications will also contain a provision that, should the contractors require additional or replacement personnel to fill employment openings, consideration shall be given to hiring qualified participants in the County's Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Contracting for these services will supplement County forces and expedite the necessary modifications before the fall and winter rains begin washing sediment into the reservoirs. If this work is not executed, the operation of these dams could be impacted and the downstream communities threatened with flooding. In addition, the outlet works could be seriously damaged.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter and resolution to the Department of Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO
NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR EMERGENCY MODIFICATIONS AT SAN GABRIEL,
SAN DIMAS, BIG DALTON, AND LIVE OAK DAMS AND TO PREPARE AND
EXECUTE THESE CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Curve and Williams fires in the Angeles National Forest have burned thousands of acres of the watershed tributary to San Gabriel, San Dimas, Big Dalton, and Live Oak Dams; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these fires, millions of tons of sediment could be washed into these reservoirs during moderate to heavy storms; and

WHEREAS, this sediment could enter the outlet works of San Gabriel, San Dimas, and Big Dalton dams thereby hampering the proper operation of these dams and significantly increasing the flood threat to downstream communities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the increased flood threat to downstream communities, the sediment could cause major damage to the outlet works thereby requiring expensive repairs; and

WHEREAS, modifications are necessary in order to minimize the risk of damaging the outlet works; and

WHEREAS, higher operating levels could increase water pressures in the soil adjacent to the spillway at Live Oak Dam; and

WHEREAS, the installation of horizontal drains at Live Oak Dam is necessary to relieve the buildup in water pressure; and

WHEREAS, storm season officially begins on October 15, and the winter rainy season could begin shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the public interest and necessity demand immediate action to modify the outlet works and install horizontal drains to reduce the risk of large amounts of sediment being generated during the winter rains; and

WHEREAS, the clear and imminent danger will not permit a delay resulting from the competitive solicitation of bids for the services required to modify the outlet works and install the horizontal drains;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors that (1) immediate emergency work is necessary in order to protect life and property from the clear and imminent danger of impending flooding, and (2) the Board hereby authorizes the Director of Public Works to negotiate contracts, without advertising for bids, for the modification of the San Gabriel, San Dimas, Big Dalton, and Live Oak Dams to minimize the risk of damage to these facilities during the winter rains, pursuant to Section 22050 of the Public Contract Code, and to prepare and execute these contracts in the form previously approved by County Counsel on behalf of the County.

The foregoing resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2002, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex-officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
Executive Officer of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LLOYD W. PELLMAN
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy